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Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Diana Minyi **Lee** (Singapore)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2016, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 29th and 39th meetings, on 1 May and 29 June 2017. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.[1]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 (A/71/639);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/71/760 and Corr.1);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/71/836/Add.1).

[1] A/C.5/71/SR.29 and A/C.5/71/SR.39.

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/71/L.45

4. At its 39th meeting, on 29 June, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" (A/C.5/71/L.45), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Honduras.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/71/L.45 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 2351 (2017) of 28 April 2017, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 30 April 2018,

Recalling also its resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 70/283 of 17 June 2016,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011, 66/264 of 21 June 2012, 69/307 of 25 June 2015 and 70/286 of 17 June 2016, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 30 April 2017, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 39,243,505 United States dollars, representing some 3.3 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 120 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

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[1] A/71/639 and A/71/760 and Corr.1.

[2] A/71/836/Add.1.

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289, 66/264, 69/307 and 70/286;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016;[1]

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

12. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the amount of 55,591,200 dollars for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, inclusive of 52,000,000 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 2,629,800 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, 657,600 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and 303,800 dollars for the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda;

Financing of the appropriation

13. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 46,326,000 dollars for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 April 2018, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 70/246 of 23 December 2015, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2017 and 2018, as set out in its resolution 70/245 of 23 December 2015;

14. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,033,250 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 1,776,583 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 191,167 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account, the prorated share of 42,083 dollars of the estimated staff

[1] A/71/639.

assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base and 23,417 dollars for the Regional Service Centre;

15. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 9,265,200 dollars for the period from 1 May to 30 June 2018, at a monthly rate of 4,632,600 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 70/246, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2018, as set out in its resolution 70/245, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

16. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 15 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 406,650 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 355,317 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 38,233 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account, the prorated share of 8,417 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base and 4,683 dollars for the Regional Service Centre;

17. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraphs 13 and 15 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 1,693,300 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2016, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 70/246, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2016, as set out in its resolution 70/245;

18. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 1,693,300 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2016, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 17 above;

19. *Decides* that the increase of 16,500 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2016 shall be added to the credits in the amount of 1,693,300 dollars referred to in paragraphs 17 and 18 above;

20. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

21. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Mission under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

22. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".